



ST ANDREW'S, CHESTERTON
*A thriving, open and welcoming church community
for all ages*

www.standrews-chesterton.org

Weekly News Update, 8 December 2023

Jill Pratt's funeral will be on Thursday, 14th December, at 12.30pm at Jill's parish church of St Mary's, Fen Ditton.

Churchyard Working Party this Saturday, 9th December, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm with an end-of-year celebration: We decided to have a working party this coming Saturday as the next one felt a bit close to Christmas. We've done that in the past and had a little celebration and we'll do that this year too, with hot chocolate, tea and coffee, mince pies, etc. served at around 11 am.

With the sudden icy, icy chill of the last week, the trees decided it really was time to let go of their leaves, so rakes, leaf rakes, those big plastic hands or pieces of cardboard to pick up leaves and gloves are going to come in handy. And looking at the forecast, there's only a 20% chance of rain at 10.00 and the temperature will be a whole 9! Do come if you can. *Maggie*

Come decorate the Church Christmas Tree - this Saturday, 9 December, 2-3pm in church. All are welcome - young and old - to join in decorating the church tree beneath the chancel arch this Saturday afternoon at 2pm.

Christingle - this Sunday afternoon at 4pm. Our annual Christingle family service is the second Sunday in Advent. Come for 4 o'clock to decorate your own Christingle - and for a special service featuring Minims, our music group for young children. And stay for seasonal refreshments.

Advent reading and reflection - Advent is a season in the church's year when Christians have traditionally been encouraged to set aside time for reflection and personal prayer, as also in Lent - though, frankly, it's good at any time of year! It is during *Lent* that St Andrew's has a custom of meeting together in organised small groups, often centred on reading a devotional book together; and the intention is to revive these in February. Yet, as we enter Advent, if anyone would like a book recommendation for your personal reading and devotion in this time, I recommend Paula Gooder's *The Meaning is in the Waiting: the Spirit of Advent* (Canterbury Press, 2008). *Philip*

Church furniture arrangements and adjustment for Christmas season and beyond - Some of the services in the Christmas season will require us to make some adjustments to the regular position of items of furniture near the front and back of church - for example, to accommodate a larger choir for Nine Lessons and Carols, and potentially to improve space for welcome and serving refreshments. When you are in church, you may therefore notice these adjustments as we pilot arrangements for how best to use the worship space for our uses at this time. The PCC has recently agreed the need for this, and committed itself to working this out sensitively and together. *Philip*

The new December 2023 –January 2024 edition of Chesterton Chimes, which contains news from our church community and details of services and events coming up in the next two months, is available [here](#).

Service details

Sunday 10 December, 2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am [Holy Communion](#) (BCP; live-streamed and in church).

10.00 am [Sung Eucharist](#) (live-streamed and in church).

10.00 am Junior Church Groups meet in St Andrew's Hall.

4.00 pm Christingle Service in church.

Sunday 17 December, 3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP; live-streamed and in church).

10.00 am All-age Communion and Nativity Service (live-streamed and in church).

5.30 pm Contemplative Taize Service for Advent in church.

Weekdays

Every weekday, except Tuesday: [Morning Prayer](#) online at 9.00 am.

Tuesday: Morning Prayer in church (Common Worship) at 9.00 am.

Monday: Coffee Morning in the Hall, 10.45 am to 12 noon.

Tuesday: Morning Prayer in church, 9 am.

Bible Study Group in the Annexe, 10.30 am followed by the Bring and Share Christmas Party. New members are very welcome.

Please pray for...

The family of Jill Pratt.

Please continue to pray for peace in all parts of the world where there is conflict and violence.

From the Book of Remembrance: Kay Andrews, Eric Haines

More news and some reminders...

Thank you all who gave so very generously to our 'Sunday Lunch Club retirement' gift. Ian and I were very touched by this and decided to have lunch together at Oakingington Garden Centre before browsing there to decide how best to spend the rest of the generous gift money. We shall miss organising the event however will support Karrie and Jim from time to time - our warm thanks again - Ian and Sheila.

Happy news! Maggie Tate Druiff had a baby girl 2 weeks ago: Vera who weighed 6lb. 13oz. All are well. Congratulations to Maggie and Toby and also to the new grandparents, Helen and Harry Druiff.

More good news! On 26th October, Adrian, St Andrew's former Time for God volunteer 2012/13, became engaged to Siegfried, after 10 years of being together. We send our heartfelt congratulations to them both.

Supporting Crossways hostel this winter

Last winter, as a church we supported the new Crossways pop-up homeless hostel in our parish by supplying milk (later milk and bread) on a daily basis from early November to the end of March. This project is part of the Cambridge Churches Homeless Project <https://www.cchp.org.uk>

There are three ways you can support the Crossways hostel project this winter. 1) As a volunteer (visit www.ittakesacity.org.uk/support-us/ for more information). 2) Financially: If you would like to make a one off or monthly donation here are the details: "**St Andrews Chesterton PCC**" Sort Code: **20-17-35** Account no: **80263524** using the reference: **MILK**. Taxpayers: Gift Aid can be reclaimed on your donation. And/or 3) In Prayer - committing to pray regularly for the residents, staff and volunteers.

If you have further questions please speak directly to Sharon Neufeld or Patricia Abrey over coffee or on 07761 478499 or pcc.secretary@standrews-chesterton.org Thank you.

Lighting in church. Those of us who have been in church recently on darker mornings or for evening events and services will have noticed that fewer lights are working than we would expect. Unfortunately, recent attempts to solve this by changing the bulbs have revealed that the fault lies with many of the light fittings - a number of which have failed at the same time. To improve the lighting in the short-term, we plan to introduce some stand-alone lighting. The PCC has recognised and agreed the need to bring forward a long-planned project to upgrade to an energy-efficient and flexible lighting system, and to find the funds for this as soon as possible. Please bear with us while the project is planned and implemented. If you have any views about our future lighting needs in church, you are most welcome to share them with Philip in the first instance.

The Allcomers Group sings regularly at the All-age Communion Service on the third Sunday in the month. If you would like to take part in future months, please let Chris know at chris.pountain@standrews-chesterton.org

The next meeting of the **Book Club** will be on **Tuesday 23rd January, at 8 pm**, at the home of Ewa Allen (42 Hawthorn Way, Tel. 367351). We will be discussing *Light Perpetual* by Francis Spufford, a novel that follows the fictionalized lives of five children killed during a V-2 attack in London in 1944, imagining an alternate world in which they lived. As ever, new and occasional members are most welcome.

Community News & Notices

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has launched this year's Surviving Winter Appeal to raise £20,000 to support local households facing fuel poverty. The Foundation appeals to those who are in a position to help, to please donate to support those who will struggle to stay warm this winter: justgiving.com/campaign/survivingwinter2023. The Foundation will then work with partnering charities across the county to distribute the raised funds, by making direct payments towards energy costs, like topping up prepayment meters, financing upcoming gas and electricity costs or paying for heating oil deliveries.

ESOL Cafe in Chesterton: A friendly group meets on Tuesday mornings at St Laurence's Church to help anyone who would like to improve their English speaking for whom it is not their first language. Each session deals with a different useful topic. Please see this [flyer](#) for details and visit www.esolcafe.co.uk, where the programme for this term can be found.

Please email any notices for inclusion in the next Weekly News Update by 12 noon on **Thursday 7 December** to admin@standrews-chesterton.org. Thank you.